

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10 and 25 are pending. Claim 25 is newly added.

In the last official action, the Examiner rejected the previous claims for obviousness in view of Ordish, Walsh and Autotrader.com. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended herein, is neither shown nor suggested by the cited references.

As amended, claim 1 is directed to a computer-implemented method to trade objects over a network. A first order is received for an object having at least four dimensions. A message is received to modify said first order while said first order is pending, wherein said message is received from a party associated with the first order. The first order is modified in accordance with said message. User-preferences associated with the first order are encoded. A computer memory is searched for a second order with an object having said at least four dimensions. The user-preferences and characteristics of the second order are then applied to a quality function that outputs a quality value of the second order to the user. The first order is matched with the second order in accordance with the quality value. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, p. 17, lines 16-17 (“In one embodiment of the invention, user preferences are encoded and used by the matcher engine to determine an optimal match”) and p. 24, lines 1-4 (“A quality function encodes a user’s preferences and serves for selecting among several possible trades. The quality function is optional in the system of the present invention. The quality function inputs an object, price and order size, and outputs a real-valued “quality” of the corresponding trade for the user.”)

None of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, teach the steps of amended claim 1, which include encoding user-preferences associated with the first order; applying the user-preferences and characteristics of the second order to a quality function that outputs a quality value of the second order to the user; matching said first order with said second order in accordance with said quality value.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that pending independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that all dependent claims are allowable because each such claim depends from an allowable base claim. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees due in connection with this filing Deposit Account 50-0310. A duplicate of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel H. Golub
Reg. No. 33,701
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1701 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-963-5055

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